

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An information exchange method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a content of interest rendered by media using first and second terminal devices for information exchange connected to a computer network;

displaying an image regarding the content on the first and second terminal devices;

sending a first information to identify the displayed image and a second information including information relevant to position or time of an object ~~information~~ indicated from the displayed image from the first and second terminal devices to a server device connected to the computer network, respectively, across the computer network; and

allowing communication messages between the first terminal and the second terminal based on the received first and second information by the server device.

2. (Currently Amended) An information exchange method as recited in claim 1 wherein:

said first terminal device ~~for information exchange~~ receives or retrieves content of interest rendered by media and sends said first information to identify the content and a first target area selected to define a part or all of an object selected from the content of said displayed image on said first terminal a said second information to said an information exchange-server equipment device across the computer network;

said second terminal device ~~for information exchange~~ receives or retrieves content of interest rendered by media and sends second information ~~to identify the content~~ and second target area ~~selected~~ to define a part or all of an object from the content of said

displayed image on said second terminal as said second information to said ~~the information exchange-server equipment-device~~ across the computer network;

~~said the information exchange-server equipment-device~~ makes up a group of said first and second terminal devices ~~for information exchange~~, according to a grouping method using said first and second information ~~to identify the content and said first and second area selected that it received~~ sent from said first and second terminal devices;

~~the said first terminal device for information exchange~~ sends a first message to said ~~information exchange-server equipment-device~~ across the computer network;

~~said information exchange-server equipment-device~~ sends said first message that it received to one or more terminal devices for information exchange belonging to said group and including said second terminal device ~~for information exchange~~ across the computer network; and

said second terminal device ~~for information exchange~~ receives and outputs said message.

3. (Currently Amended) An information exchange method as recited in claim 2 wherein:

said grouping method comprises one of or a combination of a plurality of the following:

grouping terminal ~~devices-device~~ for information exchange for which matching to a certain extent occurs regarding said first and second information ~~to identify the content~~ received therefrom;

grouping terminal devices for information exchange for which matching to a certain extent occurs regarding said first information ~~to identify the content~~ and said first and second target area selected as said second information, received therefrom;

grouping terminal devices for information exchange by limiting the number of terminal devices to form a group to a given number;

grouping terminal devices for information exchange for which matching occurs! in one of or a plurality of items of information designating appointed identifiers of

terminal devices for information exchange, geographical area, interests, content I titles, and community, respectively.

4. (Currently Amended) An information exchange method, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a content of interest rendered by media using a first terminal device for information exchange connected to a computer network;

displaying an image regarding the content on the first terminal device;

sending a first information to identify the displayed image, a second information including information relevant to position or time of an object ~~information~~ indicated from the displayed image, and a message from the first terminal device to an information exchange server equipment across a computer network;

making up a group of two or more terminal devices including at least the first terminal device and a second terminal device by the information exchange server equipment;

sending the first information, the second information and the message received by the information exchange server equipment to the second terminal belonging to said group across the computer network;

receiving the first and second information and the message from the information exchange server equipment by the second terminal device; and

displaying the message and/or image on the second information device based on the received first and second information and the message.

5. (Currently Amended) An information exchange method as recited in claim 4 wherein:

said ~~information exchange server equipment~~ device makes up a group of terminal devices for information exchange having a group identifier registered beforehand.

6. (Currently Amended) An information exchange method as recited in claim 4 wherein:

said ~~information exchange server equipment device~~ makes up a group of terminal devices for information exchange in such a way in which:

said server ~~equipment device~~ makes a list of one or more groups that have been made up and related information (which will be referred as group information hereinafter) and sends the group list to the first terminal device ~~for information exchange receives and outputs the group list, selects the group information for one group from the group list, and sends the selected group information to the server device across the computer network; and~~ across the computer network;

~~_____ said first terminal device for information exchange receives and outputs the group list, selects the group information for one group from the group list, and sends the selected group information to the server equipment across the computer network; and~~
the said server equipment device sets the first terminal device to join the group appointed by the selected group information.

7. (Currently Amended) An information exchange method as recited in claim 6 wherein:

said group information includes said first information ~~to identify the content~~ and said second information ~~target area selected~~.

8. (Original) An information exchange method as recited in claim 4 wherein:
said message comprises one of or a combination of a plurality of the following items: character strings of text and keywords, audio information, video information, advertising information, time information, thumbnail images, and pointer information.

9. (Currently Amended) A terminal device for information exchange comprising
a first input unit;
a display unit which displays an image regarding content of interest rendered
by media;

an information acquisition unit which obtains a first information to identify the displayed image and a second information including information relevant to position or time of object information indicated from the display image by said first input unit;
a second input unit which inputs a message; and
a communication unit which transmits said first and second information and message over a computer network.

10. (Currently Amended) A terminal device for information exchange as recited in claim 9 further comprising means for storing said content of interest; and means for generating and displaying a thumbnail image from said first information to identify the content, said second information target area selected, and said stored content of interest stored.

11. (Original) A terminal device for information exchange as recited in claim 9 further comprising time shifting means for recording and reproducing said content of interest.

12. (Previously Presented) An information exchange method according to claim 1, said server device allow communication messages between the first terminal and the second terminal based on consistency between said first and second information from said first terminal device and said first and second information from said second terminal device.

13. (Previously Presented) An information exchange method according to claim 12, said communication messages between the first terminal and the second terminal includes chat using said computer network.

14. (Previously Presented) An information exchange method according to claim 12, said displayed image regarding the content is a video image.

15. (Previously Presented) An information exchange method according to claim 1, said object information includes area information indicated from the displayed image by using a pointing device.